Area under Wheat and Paddy Cultivation

324. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area under cultivation of wheat and paddy, separately, in Bihar at present;

(b) what was the production of wheat and paddy in the State during the last three years, crop-wise and year-wise; and

(c) what incentives are being given/proposed to be given to farmers of Bihar to adopt the latest available technology to increase the production of wheat and paddy in the State, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The area under cultivation of wheat and paddy in Bihar during 1996-97 is estimated at 21.30 and 50.72 lakh hectares respectively.

(b) The estimated production of wheat and rice in Bihar during the last three years was as follows:

(Lakh tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice
1994-95	42.75	62.98
1995-96	41.81	69.11
1996-97	44.09	72.38

(c) To increase the production and productivity of wheat and rice in Bihar, the Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in wheat/rice based Cropping System Areas. The incentives are provided to farmers for use of seeds of location specific high yielding varieties and improved farm implements. Besides, for effective transfer of technology, field demonstrations on farmers holdings and farmers/farm labourers trainings are being organized. For efficient use of water, financial assistance is also provided to the farmers for promoting the use of drip/sprinkler irrigation systems.

Loss of Life and Property due to Floods and Droughts

325. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the loss (in rupee value) due to floods and droughts on account of crops affected and houses and cattles destroyed during the last three years, year-wise, separately; and

(b) the funds released from Central Government to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) According to the reports received from the State Governments, losses due to damage to crops, houses, properties and loss of animals in the wake of floods and drought during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Loss
1994-95	1793.00
1995-96	3145.00
1996-97	3615.00

(b) The following funds were released to the State Governments during the last three years as Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR):

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Funds Released	
	As central share of C.R.F.	From N.F.C.R.
1994-95	603.00	—
1995-96	847.71	225.69
1996-97	898.15	268.08